



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - April 21, 2003

- ***In the West***, late-season storminess across ***northern California*** and the ***Great Basin*** continues to slow fieldwork but improve water-supply prospects.
- ***On the Plains***, warm, dry weather favors spring fieldwork and winter wheat development. Despite favorable temperatures (today's highs are forecast to range from 70 to 80 degrees F), topsoil moisture remains limited on the ***southern High Plains***, while subsoil moisture shortages persist on the ***northern and central Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, cool, showery weather across the ***Great Lakes region*** is slowing fieldwork but easing long-term precipitation deficits. Meanwhile, dry weather favors pre-planting fieldwork in the ***upper Midwest***.
- ***In the South***, locally heavy showers linger across the ***central Gulf Coast States***, while wet fields are slowing fieldwork in portions of the ***western Gulf Coast region***. Elsewhere, warm weather is promoting the planting and emergence of spring-sown crops.

Outlook: During the early part of the week, occasional showers and cool weather will accompany a cold front in the ***Atlantic Coast States***, while a developing storm system will trigger rain and wet snow across the ***Northeast***. Meanwhile in the ***West***, periods of rain and high-elevation snow showers will prevail from the ***Pacific Coast to the Rockies*** as a complex storm system moves inland. Windy, showery conditions will reach the ***Plains*** by mid-week in advance of the storm system, while scattered showers will yield to cool, dry weather in the ***Corn Belt***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for April 26-30 calls for above-normal rainfall across much of the ***U.S.***, except for near- to below-normal precipitation in parts of the ***upper Midwest, northern Plains, and Pacific Northwest***. Above-normal temperatures will be confined to the ***Northeast*** and ***southern Florida***, while cooler-than-normal weather is forecast from the ***northern and central Plains westward to the Pacific Coast***.

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